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Pilot Says Cuba Wants Better U.S. Relations

The Miami Herald

MIAMI, March 4 — Cuban government officials realize they need the United States and want to send a delegation to talk about improving relations, a United States pilot just out of Cuba, said.

"They realize, I think, that it's going to be a long hard road if they don't improve relations with the United States," the pilot, Trevor Burns, explained.

Burns, 43, said "people high in the Cuban government" told him this. He was in Cuba for two weeks after his private plane crashed on the Cuban coast Feb. 16 and the Cuban navy fished him out of the water.

"The Cubans feel a lot of the animosity shown Cuba by the United States is political, and the Soviets do a lot of brainwashing to aggravate it," Burns observed.

"The reason the Cubans are so antagonistic now is that they feel like a little kid challenging a big boy, with a giant (Russia) backing them up."